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95th Fleet Reserve Association

National Convention

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Tuesday, 26 September 2023

Nugget Casino Resort

Sparks, Nevada

1 NP ROBBINS: Shipmate Master at Arms,
2 invite the shipmates and guests into the meeting
3 hall and close the door. Thank you, Shipmate
4 Master at Arms.

5 Shipmate National Chaplain, please open
6 the Bible.

7 NCHAP BAILEY: Shipmate National
8 President, the Bible is open.

9 NP ROBBINS: Cover. Shipmates, please
10 join me in saluting the colors. Hand salute.
11 Two.

12 I now declare the first business session
13 of the 95th National Convention of the Fleet
14 Reserve Association regularly convened.

15 Shipmates, our convention recorder who
16 is to the right of the podium, okay, is Wil
17 Biggs. He's working with CRC-Salomon, okay?

18 Before we get started, we have a video
19 or a CD greeting presentation from Senator --
20 negative, okay, scratch that. Okay.

21 I want to remind all delegates that when

1 addressing the chair on any matter, including a
2 second or a motion, you must speak into the
3 microphone, you must state your last name and
4 branch number. The recording of this convention
5 is being electronically means. If you do not
6 speak into the microphone, your name or branch
7 and comments will not be recorded. Motions and
8 seconds will not be recognized except and unless
9 you make them into the microphone. Please keep
10 private discussions to yourself during the
11 breaks.

12 I have appointed a master at arms for
13 this business session, Shipmate Ruiz from the
14 West Coast.

15 I didn't get a chance to ask this one,
16 but my timekeeper is Shipmate Paul A. Phelps.
17 Where you at? Okay. I will now remind all
18 delegates that when a matter is under discussion
19 that you are limited to a maximum of three
20 minutes of speaking at the microphone and that
21 you must confine your remarks to the question.

1 In addition, you may not speak the second time on
2 any question until other privileges to speak and
3 who desire to speak have done so. This rule is
4 addressed in the FRA standing rules.

5 National Executive Director, will you
6 now call the role of officers?

7 NED REID: National President Robbins.

8 NP ROBBINS: Present.

9 NED REID: National Vice President
10 Handzuk.

11 NVP HANDZUK: Present.

12 NED REID: National Executive Director
13 Reid, that's me.

14 Junior Past National President Campbell.

15 NJPNP CAMPBELL: Present.

16 NED REID: Regional President
17 Northeast/New England Ross.

18 RPNE/NE ROSS: Here.

19 NED REID: Regional President East Coast
20 Falu.

21 RPEC FALU: Present.

1 NED REID: Regional President Southeast
2 Anger.
3 RPSE ANGER: Here.
4 NED REID: Regional President North
5 Central Cunningham.
6 RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Present.
7 NED REID: Regional President South
8 Central Smith.
9 RPSC SMITH: Present.
10 NED REID: Regional President Southwest
11 Chapman.
12 RPSW CHAPMAN: Present.
13 NED REID: Regional President West Coast
14 Nash.
15 RPWC NASH: Present.
16 NED REID: Regional President Northwest
17 Faubion.
18 RPNW FAUBION: Present.
19 NED REID: National Parliamentarian
20 Posekany.
21 NPAR POSEKANY: Present.

1 NED REID: National Chaplain Bailey.

2 NCHAP BAILEY: Present.

3 NED REID: National President, the role
4 has been called of officers and all are present.

5 NP ROBBINS: Thank you. Shipmate?

6 PNP COURNEYA: Shipmate National
7 President -- Courneya, delegate.

8 NP ROBBINS: Excuse me, Shipmate, you're
9 not speaking into the mic; didn't you just hear
10 that what I just read? All right, Junior Past?

11 JPNP CAMPBELL: Junior Past National
12 President present in the uniform of the day as
13 prescribed by Past National President Courneya.

14 NP ROBBINS: Shipmates, take your
15 telephones, either shut them off or put them on
16 silent. The master at arms will walk around and
17 gather a five-dollar donation if your phone goes
18 off, and it will go into the disaster relief
19 fund, okay? So some of you get your wallets out,
20 because I know your phones are going to go off,
21 and it happened to me, okay?

1 We now have the first convention report
2 from Shipmate Chairman Past Regional President
3 Jeff Hatliff. Where are you at, Jeff? Say that
4 again? He got promoted on my paperwork. Go
5 ahead.

6 PRP HATLIFF: Shipmate National
7 President, Jeff Hatliff. Our convention report
8 for September 26, 2023 at 1300. Authorized
9 voting strength is 876. Branches represented by
10 delegates, 47. Votes represented by delegates,
11 444. Branches represented by proxies, 69. Votes
12 registered by proxy, 321. Branches not
13 registered, 30. Number of registered delegates,
14 87. Registered voting strength is 765. Votes
15 not registered, 111.

16 A two-thirds voting strength is 510, and
17 a majority vote is 383.

18 That concludes by report, Shipmate
19 President.

20 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate
21 Hatliff. I need a motion.

1 SPEAKER: (Inaudible) I move the roll of
2 the delegates hereby submitted be the official
3 role of the voting members of this committee.

4 SPEAKER: (Inaudible) Branch 99, second.

5 NP ROBBINS: Okay, I have a motion, I
6 have a second. Any questions? Any discussion?
7 Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

8 (Chorus of ayes.)

9 Any opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 So be it.

12 Shipmates, we will now have the
13 presentation of the annual reports from the
14 national officers. In accordance with Section
15 612A of the C&BL FRA, all recommendations
16 contained in this report must have been
17 processed, submitted under Section 611 C&BL FRA
18 SR-3, reference and appliance. All these have
19 been submitted in writing in time and are
20 included in the delegate kit of each that you
21 should have.

1 In light of other business this
2 afternoon, I ask that all national officers
3 submit their reports for the records and confine
4 their remarks to the summarizing or the
5 highlights of your report in addition, remarks
6 necessary to supplement information in your
7 reports.

8 You may render your report from the
9 podium or from the floor. Microphones must be
10 used. I will commence with my report.

11 My report is in Tab A. My report as
12 national president is submitted for the record.

13 I will now call on each of the
14 following: National Vice President John Handzuk.

15 NVP HANDZUK: Thank you, Shipmate
16 National President. Shipmate National President,
17 Shipmate national officers, shipmates: My annual
18 report is contained under Tab B.

19 I just want to say it's been an honor
20 and privilege to serve as your vice president
21 this year, and I have just a few short comments.

1 I want to especially thank the headquarters staff
2 for all the work that they've done in supporting
3 me in doing my job. I also want to especially
4 thank the national president for keeping me in
5 the loop, keeping me apprised of the happenings
6 throughout the association year. It has
7 definitely been interesting, at times exciting,
8 and certainly challenging to say the least.

9 I will say also, excuse me, one last
10 thing. During last year's budget meetings we had
11 some numbers in there for T&E. I voluntarily
12 slashed the T&E by \$5,000 for the national vice
13 president. I knew what kind of a situation we
14 were in and I was willing to make that sacrifice,
15 and I will say that all funds that were accorded
16 me were used in official business.

17 This concludes my report and I
18 respectfully request it be received.

19 NP ROBBINS: Executive Director Shipmate
20 Reid.

21 NED REID: Good afternoon, shipmates.

1 It's kind of bittersweet for me to be standing
2 here and giving this report because I think all
3 of us had the intention of seeing NED Slawinski
4 do this and again, we miss him quite a bit at
5 headquarters, and one of the things I tried to
6 focus on is just a little bit about how he and I
7 worked together and how we are going to continue
8 to work.

9 And I looked at, my report is in Tab C,
10 Charlie, and I looked at the past, the present
11 and the future. I can't do a lot about the past.
12 We can learn from it or we can make the same
13 mistakes that we've made before.

14 The present is what's happening right
15 now. We have some things that are going on, the
16 sale of the building, and we have, the present is
17 about the shrinking of the membership. It was
18 awesome this morning to hear Colonel Storer say
19 that he was a member of the FRA. I can tell you
20 three years ago, even after spending 22 years in
21 the Navy and the Army, I had never heard of FRA.

1 And so what I think about for the future is we've
2 got to get out there and we've got to make sure
3 that everyone knows what and who FRA is.

4 Since taking over as NED, I've had the
5 opportunity to meet with Chief of Naval
6 Operations down in Washington, D.C., the incoming
7 Marine Corps general, head of the Marine Corps
8 and just, it was awesome to be there just to
9 shake hands with them, hand them my card, and to
10 see exactly what they knew about this
11 organization, and to make sure I had made
12 relationships, building relationships that are
13 going to hopefully bring us some new additional
14 members.

15 As I said, my report is here. The
16 future really is about Centennial 2024, and I
17 think some of you have received pamphlets on your
18 desk identifying it, and that's what we're on
19 going forward for 2024 and beyond. This ends my
20 report.

21 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate Reid.

1 Finance officer, Shipmate Reid.

2 NFO REID: I didn't even realize I was
3 next again, so this is Tab Delta, and really what
4 I want people to understand is what kind of
5 financial shape we're in and what I want to do to
6 try to get us out of it, and the sale of the
7 building is really one of the places to start.
8 We've got to utilize those funds very smartly.

9 I know people call and they say I can't
10 get anybody at headquarters. Well as I said the
11 other day, we're down to literally ten people,
12 and if you look at 25,000 people who call
13 headquarters, that's 2,500 people each that we're
14 actually trying to service at the same time. So
15 bear with us on that. We're going to try to use
16 technology to help us out, but the reality is
17 there's this really scary sheet in here, the
18 balance sheet equity, and I know on about the
19 third page, that's the reality, and we've got to
20 figure out somehow to slow it down and how to
21 actually get some additional equity.

1 In the last ten years we've gone, we
2 were a 10, 12, \$13 million organization, and
3 we're down to probably under \$2 million right
4 now. So those are just the reality. The nice
5 thing I love about numbers is I can't change
6 them, they are what they are, and so that's what
7 that's about. And you know, that's who we are,
8 and we'll have to figure out how to go forward
9 with it.

10 That concludes my report as the finance
11 officer, thank you.

12 NP ROBBINS: Shipmate Junior Past
13 National President Campbell.

14 JPNP CAMPBELL: Somebody better get a
15 picture of this, please.

16 First off, I'd like to thank the
17 national president for having me on this
18 committee and my committee, the members of my
19 committee and advisor. This year like everyone
20 has stated, has been a very trying year,
21 financially real rough.

1 We met, my committee met twice on Zoom
2 and twice on actual face to face this year, and
3 we discussed quite a bit and will be discussing
4 more later in this convention at our meeting, but
5 we're going to get through this.

6 With the NED I'm also working with the
7 sale of the building, which is going well, it's
8 going fast. Later when I do my other report, I
9 will talk more about where we're going with the
10 sale of the building. But it's been a pleasure
11 and I will keep everybody abreast of what's going
12 on. Thank you.

13 NP ROBBINS: Thank you. Regional
14 President Northeast/New England Ross.

15 RPNE/NE ROSS: My report is listed on
16 Tab F as in foxtrot, it's there for your reading
17 enjoyment, and I just want to say it saddens me
18 to be stepping down, but I have a good team in
19 Northeast/New England who will be filling my
20 shoes and continue the fight.

21 And I respectfully request, this

1 concludes my report, and I request that it be
2 accepted.

3 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate Ross.
4 All you got to do is say my report is submitted
5 and walk away, okay? Regional President East
6 Coast Falu.

7 RPEC FALU: (Inaudible, off microphone.)

8 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate.
9 Regional President Southeast Anger.

10 RPSE ANGER: My report has been
11 submitted, it's under Tab F, and I request that
12 it be accepted.

13 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate Anger.
14 Regional President North Central Cunningham.

15 RPNC CUNNINGHAM: Cunningham, my
16 report's under foxtrot, and I move that it be
17 accepted as submitted.

18 NP ROBBINS: Thank you. Regional
19 President South Central Smith.

20 RPSC SMITH: Regional President South
21 Central Smith. My report has been submitted.

1 NP ROBBINS: Tab foxtrot, thank you.

2 Regional President Southwest Chapman.

3 RPSW CHAPMAN: Rex Chapman, Southwest.

4 My report has been submitted and I move that it
5 be received.

6 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate.

7 Regional President West Coast Nash.

8 RPWC NASH: Shipmate National President,
9 past national officers, regional officers,
10 shipmates and guests, my report is under Tab F.
11 I just want to say it's been a pleasure working
12 with the west coast region again, my second
13 turnaround as regional president. I hope you
14 have a good convention, and my report is under
15 Tab F.

16 NP ROBBINS: Thank you very much, Nash.

17 Regional President Northwest Fabian.

18 RPNW FAUBION: Actually it's Faubion,
19 Northwest. My report is under Tab F, I request
20 that it be received.

21 NP ROBBINS: I will receive that,

1 Shipmate Faubion.

2 National Chaplain Shipmate Laurie
3 Bailey.

4 NCHAP BAILEY: I wanted you all to see
5 me. And I'm not, I don't have all the exciting
6 things going on like the regional presidents do,
7 but my report is in Tab G and it's really short,
8 but I just want to go over some of the parts that
9 I feel in my heart, okay?

10 It has been an honor and a privilege to
11 serve as your chaplain this year. I served the
12 entire membership, I received deceased lists from
13 national, and sent out over 520 sympathy cards.
14 I sent out about three or four get well at the
15 request of the national president, and also two
16 of my very close friends, Past National President
17 George Kay and of course our beloved NED Chris
18 Slawinski. I received ten notes back from
19 families and widows thanking us for our kindness,
20 and I have answered many phone calls, mostly from
21 widows that don't know what to do, because their

1 husband didn't tell them what kind of things they
2 can get back from us as far as our support, so
3 that's really important, especially for the
4 widows, and some of them are in our units but
5 they don't know what to do. Their stories were
6 very heartfelt so please, please during the end
7 of life decisions that everyone needs to make,
8 and keep them in mind, okay?

9 So this concludes my report and I ask
10 that it be submitted.

11 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Chaplain.

12 I will now call on the chairmen of the
13 standing and special national committees to read
14 their annual report. These reports have all been
15 received by the national headquarters, typed and
16 are included in the delegate kit, I ask each
17 chairman to confirm their remarks and summarize
18 any highlights of their reports provided or
19 supplemental information, again in accordance
20 with Section 612A, C&BL FRA. All recommendations
21 contained in these reports must have been

1 previously submitted under Section 611, C&BL FRA,
2 SRA-3 reference and appliance.

3 I now call on -- Jim, did you want to
4 talk about your special committee? Okay. Jim,
5 just a moment. Americanism patriotism, Past
6 Regional President North Central Jerry Lickteig.

7 RPNC LICKTEIG: Shipmate National
8 President, the Americanism and patriotism is
9 under Tab I. I would like to draw your attention
10 to the numbers of SA crusade, the number of miles
11 driven and the money expended by the various
12 branches throughout the FRA. It has been an
13 honor to serve as the chairman and I submit my
14 report at this time request that my report be
15 accepted as submitted. Thank you.

16 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate.
17 Budget and finance, Junior Past National
18 President James Campbell.

19 JPNP CAMPBELL: Shipmates, again, good
20 afternoon. It's been my honor to serve on this
21 committee. We, I met with the NED and I met with

1 the, our realtors this year to go over the sale
2 of our building, and that would be Roy Ayres and
3 Josh Kramer of McBride Associates. They worked
4 very hard with us taking, they took us to several
5 places to look at to become our new home. We did
6 not make any decisions on those, we were waiting
7 to see what else was going to happen.

8 Well, then the company that bought the
9 building, Tech 24, called a meeting with the
10 national president, the NED, myself, and Roy
11 Ayres from the McBride company, and in that
12 meeting they talked to us about how they would
13 like to have us do a leaseback, a nine to
14 12-month leaseback, which is now is just a
15 nine-month leaseback. I apologize for my voice,
16 I've got a collapsed vocal cord.

17 So it looks like we're going to go
18 through with the nine-month lease and if I miss
19 anything, the NED will jump in there, a
20 nine-month lease, which will start after the
21 close of the sale. So whatever the close of the

1 sale date is, nine months after that, we have
2 that much time, so we're rushing like we would
3 have had to do after this convention.

4 Again, my committee -- I wanted to put
5 that out first in my report, but my committee met
6 three, four times this year. We were, the last
7 meeting was the 20th, we went over the budget for
8 the 2024 year. I think we got it worked out
9 pretty well, I'll know more about that when we
10 have our meeting and the shipmates on the
11 committee, you know, add to it, and then we bring
12 it to you folks and you get a chance to chop it
13 up. But I'm sure we've got a good budget for the
14 2024 year.

15 The committee, our budget and finance
16 committee has been working hard with me. Virgil
17 Courneya is our advisor, he has kept me in line
18 or attempted to anyhow, but that's my report. If
19 anybody has any questions about this, I will be
20 glad to answer any question I can, except that I
21 ask that it be accepted, thank you.

1 NP ROBBINS: Thank you very much.
2 Constitution, bylaws and resolutions, PNP
3 Shipmate Hylan (phonetic).

4 PNP HYLAN: Shipmate Angelo present,
5 Hylan, chairman constitution, bylaws and
6 resolutions committee. My report has been
7 submitted, can be found on Tab K of the delegate
8 package, and I'm walking, as suggested.

9 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate Hylan.
10 Future planning, Regional Vice President South
11 Central, Shipmate Talbot.

12 RVPSC TALBOT: Talbot, delegate, Branch
13 159. My report of the future planning committee
14 has been submitted, Tab L of your package. I
15 recommend you read it. Our meeting tomorrow will
16 not be a committee meeting but it will be your
17 meeting to come in and share your ideas. We've
18 made some recommendations for this upcoming year.
19 We'll work with those stakeholders to help them
20 through it.

21 As well, we've also made a resolution,

1 which is one of the first times in recent history
2 when future planning pushed something forward.
3 So please read the report, stop by and see us
4 tomorrow, it's not a formal meeting, we want your
5 ideas, we want your suggestions so we can go
6 forward.

7 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate.
8 Hospital, welfare and rehabilitation. I
9 apologize but that shipmate is not here, so at
10 this time I'm going to ask Shipmate Donald Kelly,
11 where you at, would you take over the committee,
12 because I have all the reports that were sent to
13 me and stuff? All right, thank you.

14 Legislative service, Shipmate John
15 Davis.

16 S/M DAVIS: John Davis, Branch 181. The
17 report for the national committee on legislative
18 service is under Tab N as in November in your
19 book. The national committee on legislative
20 service met March 14th to discuss legislation's
21 current status, benefits, budgets. We just

1 wanted to note that Chris Slawinski testified
2 March 1 before the Senate and House Veterans
3 Affairs Committee. We did a number of written
4 statements to various subcommittees so far this
5 year, and we've recommended Representative Jim
6 Banks, he's currently the chairman of the House
7 Armed Services Committee personnel subcommittee,
8 to be the Pinnacle Award winner next year.

9 The 2024 legislative agenda is included
10 in this report and I ask that it be approved.

11 NP ROBBINS: Thank you very much,
12 Shipmate Davis. Membership and Retention,
13 Shipmate John Handzuk.

14 NVP HANDZUK: Thank you, Shipmate
15 National President. My report is, or the
16 committee's report is in Tab Oscar. I am not
17 going to go through this completely, it's there
18 for your reading and informational purposes.

19 However, a couple of points I would like
20 to make out for your information. Some things we
21 were able to judge as a committee, the various

1 statistics are there thanks to the director of
2 membership development, Honorary Shipmate
3 Christina, so you can see how various branches
4 have done throughout the year.

5 The individual branch Charles E. Lofgren
6 award, sadly this year there were zero nominees
7 for an individual. We received none.

8 Branch awards and their overall
9 percentage of gain, group one, Branch 61, 6.45
10 percent increase. Group two, 261, increased by
11 6.41 percent. Group three, Branch 346, 23.21
12 percent. Group four, Branch 137, 15.52 percent.
13 And group five, Branch 299, 76 percent increase.
14 Well done.

15 The Abraham Rosenberg Membership Award
16 is awarded to one branch selected for its
17 achievement in outstanding membership promotion,
18 and as you may well know, Shipmate Rosenberg
19 served as national president from 1934 to 1935,
20 was a member of Cleveland Branch 17, and he is
21 credited with establishing the association's

1 financial stability in the late 1930s.
2 Wilmington, North Carolina Branch 299 was
3 selected for the Abraham M. Rosenberg recipient,
4 as I previously reported, with an overall
5 recruiting gain of 76 percent. Congratulations.

6 The Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award,
7 we will report on that after the committee meets
8 tomorrow.

9 Just for information, the gold ribbon
10 membership award listing is also contained in the
11 report.

12 There were, sadly, there were no new
13 branches or reinstated branches during the 22-23
14 membership year, and it's my understanding that
15 Branch 4, currently charter revoked, is on the
16 verge of being reinstated, reinstited, excuse
17 me. All right.

18 There have been several branches that
19 merged, surrendered or revoked charters. They're
20 listed here also, I'm not going to list them, and
21 with the corresponding NBRs that approved them.

1 I'm not going to read them all for time's sake.

2 The membership recruiting program for
3 22-23, and it will go into '23 also and '24, it's
4 contained in Article 3, Section 311.

5 We updated the Calling All Hands
6 program, it will continue. We modified -- I
7 think there's a part missing here. We modified
8 the life membership recruiting program, or the
9 recruiting program. We no longer offer a life
10 membership if you recruit 32 members. We now
11 offer five years dues extension if you recruit 24
12 new or reinstated members.

13 Additionally, in conjunction with the
14 centennial, we're -- okay, let me explain. I did
15 some financial research, I brought it to the
16 committee's attention, and the committee and the
17 director of membership development (static) okay,
18 I think I can proceed. That's quite all right.
19 No problem. All right.

20 So to explain why we stopped the life
21 membership award when you get 32 or more,

1 financially it was impractical. I looked at
2 previous years budgets and you're looking at
3 money allocated in those budgets for that award,
4 it's only going to pay for two life memberships.
5 I kept asking the question, well, what do we do
6 if we have more than two shipmates who recruit 32
7 or more, where would we get the money? You'd
8 have to go to the board for an over expenditure,
9 and given the financial circumstances, chances of
10 that were slim to none.

11 So we came up with a counter decision,
12 and there aren't that many branches when you look
13 at the statistics, that are actually gaining from
14 this. So instead of the life membership, we will
15 now offer a five-year dues extension if it's 24
16 new or reinstated. We used 24 because of the
17 centennial, and, or the gift card. And during,
18 in conjunction with the centennial, we're
19 marketing a new member rate and I believe this
20 number in here is a typo, it's supposed to be
21 \$64. The first year is \$24, the second year is

1 \$40.

2 We also heard from some of the branches
3 feedback we've gotten from the committee members,
4 some branches are sponsoring a portion or all of
5 the dues, and this is only for new members, not
6 reinstatements. And as always, shipmates are
7 responsible for recruiting, and I will tell you
8 something else too I noticed this past year,
9 because I brought this up many years ago.

10 A former director of membership
11 development, if you look at your bio in the FRA
12 website, you recall there was a time when number
13 of members recruited, you individually, was
14 always posted. And one day years ago I went and
15 looked and my slate was mysteriously wiped clean.
16 And I called headquarters and I talked to that
17 person, and I said who in God's name gave you the
18 authority to do that? I did. I said really? I
19 took it up with the NED, never got fixed. I'm
20 going to say thank you, Christina, for making it
21 fixed. So if you go log in to your page, you

1 should now be able to see how many new members,
2 reinstated members you're recruiting.

3 Al right. So back to recruiting. We
4 talked about this during our meetings over the
5 course of the year. In 2016 membership book
6 guide, yeah, it's old, it's outdated. I looked
7 at it. It's online, you can download it, but
8 much of what's in it in 2016 is applicable today.
9 It's one of your most important tools in your
10 toolbox, you just got to use it, okay? So I
11 suggest you do that.

12 One of the things that I'm hoping going
13 forward in next year, the membership and
14 recruiting committee is to look at that book to
15 make recommendations to update it for next year's
16 convention.

17 So, this concludes my report, I move
18 that it be received. Thank you.

19 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate. Okay.
20 Just a second.

21 Shipmate Chaplain, would you please

1 close the Bible?

2 NCHAP BAILEY: Shipmate National
3 President, the Bible is closed.

4 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate
5 Chaplain. Shipmate Master at Arms, you may
6 proceed.

7 PNP LA FRA SUCHOW: Hello, everybody.
8 I'm Pat Suchow, past national president. Oh, I'm
9 sorry, he's sick. I guess I'm supposed to
10 announce my junior past, I think his name was --

11 JPMP CAMPBELL: He's not here.

12 PNP LA FRA SUCHOW: Junior Past National
13 President James Campbell. Thank you.

14 PNP LA FRA MURRAY: Good afternoon,
15 everyone. I'm Christina Murray, I was national
16 president 18-19, my counterpart was Cal --

17 SPEAKER: You're old.

18 PNP LA FRA MURRAY: I am.

19 I have a little joke for you. Why are
20 mail ants better at swimming than female ants?
21 Because they're boy ant.

1 PNP LA FRA FRI: Good morning or
2 afternoon, whatever it is. I'm Doris Fri, I
3 served 24-25, I think --

4 SPEAKER: That's next year. Look at
5 your hat.

6 PNP LA FRA FRI: No, 14-15, 2014-2015.
7 John Ipert, Shipmate John Ipert was my running
8 mate and it's good to -- I don't really care.
9 It's been that kind of a week. I've been here
10 since Wednesday so I'm a little bit -- but I
11 haven't had a drink yet, so anyway, it's good to
12 see everybody. The best thing about a national
13 convention is seeing old friends and making new
14 friends. Hope you have a harmonious -- I just
15 said I hope you do, I don't think you probably
16 will, but I'll pray for you. Thanks, shipmates.

17 PNP LA FRA HOOVER: Hi. Dianne Hoover,
18 Unit 24. My running mate was Mark Tilfer, we
19 served 2011-2012. No? Have a great convention.

20 PNP LA FRA RODHAM-TUCK: Yes, really,
21 something is wrong with that picture. I'm Cindy

1 Rodham-Tuck, past national president. I served
2 2009-10 with National President Gary Blackburn,
3 and we have continued our friendship, and I hope
4 you all have a wonderful convention, and I hope
5 you're enjoying yourselves. And like they said
6 earlier, if you have any complaints, talk to
7 Gary.

8 PNP LA FRA ROBBINS: Hi. I'm Sandra
9 Robbins, past national president in 2006-2007.
10 My counterpart was Jerry Sweeney, and I know he
11 would appreciate all your prayers. I do get to
12 talk to him from time to time, never get to see
13 them.

14 I've got a little joke. It's called the
15 baby. After ten years when Navy chief's wife
16 started to think their son didn't look like her
17 or her husband, which she felt was a little
18 strange, so she decided to get a DNA test. The
19 wife is shocked to find out that the kid's DNA
20 didn't match, which meant that the kid wasn't
21 theirs. When the chief gets home from work the

1 wife says Honey, I have something very serious to
2 tell you. The chief says what's up. The wife
3 explains, well, we got the DNA test back and
4 according to the test results, this is not our
5 kid. The chief just looks at her in response,
6 well, you don't remember, do you? When we were
7 leaving the hospital we noticed that our baby had
8 just pooped and then you said to me, go change
9 the baby, I'll wait for you here. So I went
10 inside, got a clean baby, and look.

11 So, have a great convention.

12 NP ROBBINS: If that's all the past
13 national presidents, we're good to go ahead and
14 do the -- we're going to go ahead and recess for
15 about ten or 15 minutes, okay?

16 (Recess.)

17 NP ROBBINS: Shipmate Master at Arms,
18 make it to the door, invite the guests and
19 shipmates in, and close the door. There's water
20 over here on the table if anybody needs any,
21 okay?

1 Shipmate Chaplain, would you please open
2 the Bible?

3 NCHAP BAILEY: Shipmate National
4 President, the Bible is open.

5 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate
6 Chaplain.

7 I need you to answer a question.
8 Shipmate John? I'm sorry. Shipmate at the mic
9 on my right.

10 RPNE/NE ROSS: Ross, Branch 23, Regional
11 President, Northeast/New England, reports 100
12 percent delegates present.

13 NP ROBBINS: That's good, thank you.

14 JPNP CAMPBELL: National President, let
15 the record show that the junior past is in the
16 uniform of the day.

17 NP ROBBINS: Don't go nowhere. I've got
18 a question for you.

19 SPEAKER: Shipmate National President.

20 NP ROBBINS: Go ahead.

21 SPEAKER: (Inaudible) Branch 289,

1 delegate. I had a question concerning the report
2 on the sale of the building. You say this is
3 going to be a nine-month leaseback, correct?
4 Juts so the members understand what is involved
5 in that, how much is the leaseback going to cost
6 the FRA?

7 NP ROBBINS: I'm going to let the NED
8 answer that question for you.

9 NFO REID: So the bottom line is, if
10 you've got your calculators, it's going to be
11 between 29 and -- it's a savings. So in the book
12 itself, if you look, there is a budget for 2024,
13 and if you look at that budget, one of the things
14 it shows is a comparative budget, so you can see
15 the costs of the, what would have been the cost
16 of maintenance versus the cost of renting, and I
17 can tell you that the renting is a lot less
18 expensive.

19 The nine months, what we agreed to is
20 that the nine months would be no more than what
21 we were paying if we went to a new building. So

1 somewhere around, between \$29 a square foot and
2 \$32 a square foot. We're talking about
3 approximately 3,000 square feet, which actually
4 comes in less than what we would be paying in
5 maintenance alone if we stayed in the building.
6 So by moving out of the building, not only do we
7 get \$4.2 million, we also get another hundred
8 thousand dollars a year in savings because the
9 maintenance on that building is more expensive
10 than what the rent would be.

11 Taxes alone are \$52,000 because we own
12 that building but in the budget, if you look at
13 the 2024 budget versus the '23 budget, what
14 you'll see is that it's comparative, you will see
15 what the differences are. Does that answer the
16 question?

17 (Inaudible response from the floor.)

18 Well, we have not, it has not been
19 confirmed. So the numbers can run from, it's
20 really about \$29 a square foot to \$34 a square
21 foot versus 3,000 square feet, versus 3,500

1 square feet. So we don't have a number because
2 we haven't finalized what -- oh, you're
3 talking -- I'm sorry, you're talking about the
4 nine months. We do have a number, a definitive
5 number, and I will get that for you, what the
6 number is.

7 SPEAKER: Can you share it with the
8 shipmates so we know what it will be?

9 NFO REID: I don't have it but I'll just
10 pull the numbers, the figures out. Actually, it
11 should be in the book. I don't know if, I'm
12 trying to think whether I did the budget using
13 that, and I think when we did this budget, we
14 were contemplating, there should be a line called
15 rent.

16 SPEAKER: Okay, I'll check, because I
17 didn't see anything for building.

18 NFO REID: Okay, so I will provide that.
19 I have the number. When this book went to press,
20 we were probably still in negotiations, so it's
21 not, nothing is being hidden from anyone, it's

1 simply that that book had to be going to press at
2 a certain time. And as I said, we haven't fully
3 come up with the numbers -- well, we now have,
4 but when this book went to press we may not have
5 come up with what the nine months is.

6 It's approximately -- I can tell you
7 what the approximate amount is. Simply like I
8 said, if you take \$29 a square foot times 3,000
9 square feet, that's the number.

10 SPEAKER: Well, I did the \$32 a square
11 foot and that came out to be 96,000.

12 NFO REID: And that's approximately what
13 we're going to pay.

14 SPEAKER: Per month?

15 NFO REID: No, no, no, that's for the
16 whole year, that's for the whole nine months.
17 No, no, no, it's -- when you figure out per
18 square foot, what you're doing is you take the 12
19 months and what they're saying is over a 12-month
20 period you're going to pay \$29 a square foot.
21 And if you have 3,000 square feet, that would be,

1 let's say \$90,000 and then you divide that by 12.
2 That's how you come up with it. No, not \$80,000
3 a month, no. Absolutely no.

4 SPEAKER: And he asked if we were going
5 to be paying taxes.

6 NFO REID: So the taxes, we no longer
7 own the building, we no longer pay the taxes.
8 The taxes are \$54,000 a year.

9 NP ROBBINS: I wrote the check. I mean,
10 I signed the check.

11 NFO REID: Any other questions about
12 that? I'm happy to --

13 SPEAKER: I think another question is,
14 do we pay the utilities.

15 NFO REID: What we did was when we did
16 the rent, we agreed to pay the utilities, but we
17 said that your rent has to be low enough so that
18 we're not paying any more than \$29 a square foot.
19 So it doesn't matter how it comes out, it's \$29 a
20 square foot is what we're paying for. And that
21 building is 15,000 square feet, we're only paying

1 for 3,000 square feet, that's it. So whatever
2 that number is, if you saw that \$96,000 number,
3 divide that by 12, times nine. I'm happy to
4 answer any of those off line as well.

5 NP ROBBINS: John, does that answer your
6 question? All right. If anybody has any
7 questions when these reports are being read,
8 raise your hand or stand up and start coming to
9 the mic and ask the question. I don't want you
10 to go out of here going they didn't answer my
11 question.

12 And my next one is public relations,
13 regional, Past Regional President J.J. Thomas.
14 I'm sorry to say J.J. Thomas had a bad stroke,
15 okay? He went to the hospital, came home for a
16 couple weeks, turned around and had another
17 stroke, so that's why he is not here, you know?
18 So it's been, I've been keeping in touch with
19 him, he's motoring fairly good, but keep him in
20 your prayers please. Pete Lazzaretti is going to
21 be taking over his committee, public relations.

1 Go ahead, please.

2 PNP LAZZARETTI: Past National President
3 Pete Lazzaretti, acting chair of the national
4 committee on public relations. The is under Tab
5 Papa, and I ask that it be as submitted.

6 NP ROBBINS: Thank you very much.
7 Veterans service, Past Regional President East
8 Coast Paul Phelps.

9 PRPEC PHELPS: Shipmate National
10 President, shipmates, my report actually is in
11 Tab Q as in Quebec. You can read it as everybody
12 else has stated.

13 One thing I feel I need to bring to
14 light, if you look at my last paragraph, it says
15 after approving the grading sheet that was
16 created from our normal reports by PRPNW John
17 Flanner, I distributed them to all regional
18 presidents for further distribution to their
19 committees to read at the regional conventions.
20 Unfortunately, once that happened, all of a
21 sudden everybody started flooding myself and

1 national with it, now there was a new set of
2 grading sheets or, excuse me, a new set of
3 committee reports.

4 I never intended for that to happen, I
5 apologize that it happened, but the bottom line
6 is there is no proposed new committee report for
7 veterans services. All I did is I sent to all of
8 my regional presidents what we were going to use,
9 as we did at last year's convention, to grade the
10 reports. And if you look, it's the '22 report,
11 and out to the side in red it has what we're
12 going to grade in each of those areas, and then
13 we give them a number. It makes it very simple,
14 and it is suggested that other committees would
15 incorporate something similar.

16 So once again, I, it's not in here, but
17 I am personally apologizing for any confusion
18 that I created throughout all of this, thinking
19 that there was a new and confusing committee
20 report.

21 Shipmate National President, my report

1 has been submitted.

2 NP ROBBINS: Thank you very much,
3 Shipmate Phelps. Here's another one, folks, is
4 youth activity. Past Regional President Jack
5 Fogle resigned from the committee, so I'm asking
6 if Brian Jones, is he in here? Shipmate Dulette?
7 Valerie, would you be willing to chair the
8 committee on youth activity, grading the grade
9 sheets and stuff like that on youth activity? I
10 have them up in my room, I can give them to you.
11 Would you accept or not? Thank you.

12 Special centennial committee, PNP Donna
13 Jansky.

14 PNP JANSKY: (Inaudible) Jansky,
15 chairman. My report is under Tab S. Again, I
16 move that it be received.

17 NP ROBBINS: Thank you very much,
18 Shipmate.

19 And it was brought to my attention that
20 I missed a report. Shipmate Christina from
21 national, I apologize. It's not on my paper.

1 S/M CHRISTINA: Shipmate National
2 President, national officers and shipmates:
3 Please see Tab H as in Hitchcock, you will find
4 my report. It has been respectfully submitted,
5 and I move that it be accepted.

6 NP ROBBINS: I appreciate that, thank
7 you.

8 Shipmate Phil, you said you had
9 something you wanted to read? Yeah, I'm waiting
10 on you. Communication, folks, remember.

11 NED REID: This is another recognition
12 from the Reserve Officers Association of the
13 United States.

14 To the Officers and Members of the Fleet
15 Reserve Association and the internal family of
16 Chris Slawinski: Please accept the condolences
17 of the ROA family in the sad occasion of the loss
18 of the United States Navy Reserve Sailor Chris
19 Slawinski, FRA National Executive Director.

20 Chris spent his life helping others,
21 notably his nation, fellow vets, family and

1 friends. He will be deeply missed by us, his
2 comrades. Chris leaves an unbowed legacy of
3 service and superiority in service. Perhaps that
4 is a man's best gift to his fellows.

5 With deepest sympathy, Jeff Phillips,
6 Executive Director of the Reserve Officers
7 Association.

8 I'll be back.

9 NP ROBBINS: Okay. The national
10 executive director will read the delegates will
11 read and the delegates will act on the
12 ratification of the actions taken by the national
13 board of directors since the last convention.
14 Shipmate Phil?

15 NED REID: As part of your delegate kit
16 you will see 46 national board resolutions listed
17 I'm going to quickly go down. At our pre board
18 yesterday there were some additional NBRs that
19 were identified and I'll talk a little bit more
20 about those as we get to them. So follow along,
21 if there are questions, please hold them until

1 the end.

2 Just a reminder, these are items that
3 have already been done, the NBR has been approved
4 and these actions have been done, so there's no
5 need to, there's nothing that can be done at this
6 point. I'm sorry, oh, ratification. What I'm
7 looking for is ratification of these NBRs.

8 So we'll start, NBR 1-23, the national
9 board of directors approval of the 2022 pre board
10 NBO, national board meeting minutes, 11
11 affirmatives.

12 The national board of directors approval
13 of ERF as the audit firm for 2022, 11
14 affirmatives.

15 The national board of directors approval
16 of merger of Branch 92 and Branch 162, 11
17 affirmatives.

18 The national board of directors set NED
19 salary at \$113,600, same as 2022, ten
20 affirmatives, one abstained, the NED.

21 The national board of directors approval

1 of NP LA FRA project of 2023, 11 affirmatives.

2 The national board of directors
3 ratification of bylaw change of East Coast
4 region, 11 affirmatives.

5 The national board of directors
6 ratification of standing committee for 2022-23,
7 12 affirmatives.

8 The national board of directors approved
9 reinstatement of Suitland Branch 67, 12
10 affirmative.

11 The national board of directors lifted
12 suspension of Osage Heritage Branch 334, 12
13 affirmatives.

14 The national board of directors
15 authorized FO to sign contract for Doubletree by
16 Hilton Annapolis Hotel for the 96th FRA, 91st LA
17 FRA National Convention, 12 affirmatives.

18 The national board of directors lifted
19 suspension of Silverdale Branch 310, 12
20 affirmatives.

21 The national board of directors approved

1 extent -- approved funds from the welfare and
2 rehabilitation reserve for a total grant of
3 \$2,500 to Ms. Gwendolyn "Peggy" Wilde, 11
4 affirmative.

5 The national board of directors ratified
6 amended bylaws of the Northeast region, 11
7 affirmatives.

8 The national board of directors approved
9 2022 post national board of directors convention
10 minutes, 12 affirmatives.

11 The national board of directors approved
12 the surrendered charter of Branch 207, 12
13 affirmatives.

14 The national board of directors approved
15 suspension of Branch 250, 12 affirmatives.

16 The national board of directors approved
17 one-year term for membership and retention versus
18 three years, chairman being appointed, and the
19 chairman being appointed by the national
20 president, 12 affirmative.

21 The national board of directors approval

1 of the FRA 2023 budget, 12 affirmatives.

2 The national board of directors approved
3 bimonthly distribution of FRA Today magazine, 12
4 affirmatives.

5 The national board of directors approved
6 that membership 56513775 be terminated for cause,
7 expulsion, Section 503, 12 affirmatives.

8 The national board of directors approved
9 that membership 546525328 be terminated for
10 cause, expulsion, Section 503, 12 affirmatives.

11 The national board of directors approved
12 expenditure of funds from the welfare and
13 rehabilitation reserve for Ryan Rose, 11
14 affirmatives.

15 The national board of directors approved
16 the sale of the building, ten affirmatives.

17 The national board of directors approved
18 the voluntary surrender charter of Branch 232, 11
19 affirmatives.

20 The national board of directors approved
21 to revoke the charter of Branch 011, 11

1 affirmative.

2 The national board of directors approved
3 the expenditure of funds from the disaster relief
4 fund, 11 affirmatives, and that was NBR 26-23.

5 On your table I have put one packet of
6 what's called Attachment C, and these are
7 national board of director resolutions presented
8 at the national board of directors pre-board
9 meeting of September 25, 2023.

10 I have some here, I will -- at the
11 conclusion, you can come up and I'll give them to
12 you. We will get additional copies if needed.
13 May I proceed?

14 NP ROBBINS: Yes.

15 NED REID: NBR 27-23, the national board
16 of directors approval of the 2023 midyear
17 national board of directors meeting minutes, 11
18 affirmatives.

19 NBR 28-23, the national board of
20 directors approval of the revocation of Branch
21 259 Fayetteville charter after not taking any

1 action on their previous suspension, 11
2 affirmative.

3 The national board of directors approval
4 of the revocation of Branch 256 Lauderdale,
5 Florida charter after not taking any action on
6 their previous suspension, 11 affirmative, NBR
7 29-23.

8 NBR 30-23, the national board of
9 directors approval of the reinstatement of Branch
10 004, Oxon Hill, Maryland, 11 affirmative.

11 NBR 31-23, the national board of
12 directors approval of merger of Branch 223 West
13 Kentucky, and 161, 11 affirmative.

14 NBR 32-23, the national board of
15 directors approval of the merger of Branch 310
16 Silverdale, Washington with Branch 029 Bremerton,
17 Washington, 11 affirmative.

18 The national board of directors
19 ratification of bylaw changes within the
20 Southeast region, 11 affirmative.

21 The national bored of directors

1 ratification of bylaw changes within South
2 Central region, 11 affirmative. I'm sorry.

3 NBR 35-23, the national board of
4 directors ratification of bylaw changes within
5 the West Coast region, 11 affirmative.

6 NBR 36-23, the national board of
7 directors ratification of by law changes within
8 the Northwest region, 11 affirmative.

9 NBR 37-23, the national board of
10 directors ratification of bylaw changes within
11 the East Coast region, 11 affirmative.

12 There are two additional ones that I
13 will read off, but I will tell you -- actually,
14 let's, I want to stop there because we need
15 ratification of these two, and the other two --
16 say again?

17 (Inaudible conversation off microphone.)

18 17-23 will be, you will not be voting on
19 for ratification because that has to be sent to
20 the constitution and bylaws committee to be
21 ratified, so take that out. 17-23, that's the

1 one about the M&R one year and the president
2 approval of the Federvac committee, so that one's
3 out.

4 So, National President, these are
5 basically finished business, do not require --
6 it's moot. I move that the delegates here accept
7 the NBRs that we've identified except for the
8 17-23, for ratification.

9 NCHAP BAILEY: National Chapman Bailey,
10 Branch 269, second.

11 NP ROBBINS: I have a motion on the
12 floor, I have a second. Is there any discussion?
13 Any discussion? Being that there is no
14 discussion, all in favor say aye.

15 (Chorus of ayes.)

16 All opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 So be it.

19 NED REID: What I do want to do is I
20 just wanted to mention two other ones that are on
21 the sheet. And again, the reason those were not

1 included is because they're going to the C&BL.

2 And that is NBR 38-23, the national
3 board of directors approved the change to
4 Article 3, Section 301, C&BL FRA to read all in
5 place of enlisted.

6 I will tell you a little about that.
7 This is an option to attempt to change from
8 enlisted to all, and the C&BL, I mean the
9 constitution and bylaws committee will be looking
10 at that.

11 Along those same lines, NBR 39-23 -- and
12 there was 11 affirmative on that, but again, the
13 constitution and bylaws.

14 NBR 39-23 approved the change to
15 Article 2, Section 201, C&BL FRA to read all
16 instead of enlisted.

17 And before we move to ratify those,
18 those are going to be brought up at the meeting
19 of the C&BL on Wednesday.

20 NP ROBBINS: The national executive
21 director will now read the convention greetings,

1 if they're in.

2 NED REID: Shipmates, officers, national
3 president, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
4 Washington, August 8th, 2023, Fleet Reserve
5 Association 95th National Convention,
6 September 23 through 30, 2023.

7 To all members of the Fleet Reserve
8 Association, FRA, greetings. Please accept my
9 congratulations and warmest wishes for a
10 productive and joyful gathering at your 95th
11 Annual National Convention in Reno, Nevada.
12 Since your founding in 1924, FRA has become our
13 nation's oldest and largest organization serving
14 enlisted men and women in the active and reserve
15 components, veterans and retired communities of
16 the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. You
17 should be rightfully proud of all you have
18 accomplished.

19 Congressionally chartered and recognized
20 by the Department of Veterans Affairs, you have
21 provided unwavering support as the premier

1 watchdog organization focusing on legislation to
2 improve the lives of sea service personnel and
3 their families, always standing strong in support
4 of your guiding principles of loyalty, protection
5 and service to your shipmates, you have worked
6 and lobbied tirelessly seeking pay increases for
7 career enlisted personnel, protecting military
8 retirement benefits, eliminating predatory
9 lending practices, establishing and maintaining
10 Tricare, protecting military pay and benefits
11 from budget cuts, and providing scholarships for
12 deserving members of the FRA and their families.

13 At VA we are grateful for your
14 leadership and your invaluable advocacy for
15 veterans and all the issues that are important to
16 them. Our shared work is about serving America's
17 men and women who insure our freedom and
18 prosperity as well as they have served all of us.
19 As FRA approaches its 100th year birthday, all of
20 us at VA look forward to continuing to work with
21 your association and other veteran service

1 organizations for the benefit of all veterans,
2 their families, caregivers and survivors.

3 Please accept my gratitude for your work
4 and accomplishments, and have a great convention.
5 May God bless you, your families, our veterans,
6 and our great nation. Signed, Dennis McDonough.

7 One of the other things I want to say is
8 that after this meeting we will be having a
9 presentation by Tricare in Rosewood 6, and all
10 are invited.

11 NP ROBBINS: Shipmate Joe, being that
12 you're the only one on the list, would you like
13 to give the report on the education foundation
14 that's in the book? You were at the meeting
15 yesterday.

16 PRPWC NASH: Shipmate Joe already
17 submitted it, it's in the book. It's under
18 Tab T.

19 NP ROBBINS: Tab T? I don't want to put
20 you on the spot, but hey, I enjoy it.

21 PRPWC NASH: Nash, Past Regional

1 President West Coast, Branch 192, a member of the
2 educational foundation. Joe Barnes, the
3 president of the foundation, submitted his report
4 under Tab Tango. I request the report be
5 accepted as submitted.

6 I will stand open for questions, I
7 think, if you meet me afterwards, I'll look at
8 the report and then I'll answer any questions.

9 NP ROBBINS: I appreciate that. Virgil,
10 are you still here?

11 SPEAKER: He left.

12 NP ROBBINS: Is there anybody else here
13 from the convention committee that would like to
14 update us on anything or say anything about the
15 welcome aboard? Yeah, come on up. Rick, hand
16 him a mic. It's John.

17 PRPSW QUESNEL: Shipmate President,
18 shipmates, welcome to the convention. The
19 committee has been working very very hard on this
20 convention, so much so that Shipmate Gary is now
21 sick and Shipmate Cindy is fed up with everybody,

1 especially me, I just met with her. But I needed
2 to sell the ticket, I just told her there are two
3 more that want to go.

4 So tonight's event is going to be --
5 right now, if you know where the Resort Tower is,
6 it's a little further west of that if you want to
7 call it that. They had it blocked off, you can
8 see the decorations, and I believe the gate is
9 going to open at seven o'clock, 1900. Shipmate
10 Don Kelly and his cohort will be taking the
11 tickets and handing out the wrist bands. No
12 ticket, no band. If you're in there and your
13 band disappears, we're going to escort you out
14 politely, maybe.

15 It's a fairly nice small evening but
16 it's not meant to be a meal, please remember
17 that. There's going to be cold hors d'oeuvres
18 and there's going to be two hot hors d'oeuvres.
19 They've upped the order for hot hors d'oeuvres to
20 200 so there should be enough for everybody to
21 get some.

1 And remember, it's going to be a cash
2 bar, no freebie drinks, and don't bring your own,
3 they will escort you out.

4 The rest of the events as far as I know
5 are still on the schedule as proposed.

6 Everybody, I still have meal tickets some people
7 have not picked up yet, and if you're still
8 waiting for your meal tickets, then you're going
9 to have to reach out to me because we will not be
10 at the tables anymore. This afternoon was the
11 last meet and greet for the tickets.

12 Other than that, it's the Orozko Lounge
13 in the program but like I say, it's and the end
14 of the hallway, you can't miss it, it's the one
15 with the decorations.

16 NP ROBBINS: Just walk past the little
17 gedunk store down there.

18 PRPSW QUESNEL: Past the gift shop and
19 past the elevators for the Resort Tower and
20 you're there. You can't miss it, I've got little
21 flag out there blocking your way. Anything else

1 you want to know?

2 NP ROBBINS: No.

3 PRPSW QUESNEL: All righty, hope to see
4 you all there. Supposedly we have 157 of you
5 that are attending, it should be a nice time had
6 by everybody. Thank you.

7 S/M DANIELS: Shipmate Daniels, Branch
8 27. I'm on the hospitality committee. I just
9 want to clear up something because we did have a
10 crowd up there yesterday and when we said we have
11 three types of beer, okay? We had a crowd of
12 people and they'd come up and ask us, you got
13 Miller Lite, and I said we've got Coors, Bud
14 Light, Coors, we don't have Miller Lite or
15 whatever it was, we've got three kinds of beers.
16 So we're done with that. I hope to see you guys
17 at seven and we'll have all the cocktails you can
18 think of, but we're limited to three beers.
19 Thank you.

20 Oh, we do have the raffle. We'll have
21 the names posted on the door as you come in, the

1 pot is \$208, so we'll have it posted up there.
2 And if you don't have a ticket, get them by seven
3 today. Thank you.

4 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Ron.

5 Convention committees are commencing
6 their meetings at 7:30 or 8:30 and nine tomorrow
7 morning. You're instructed to conduct your
8 deliberations in a prompt and effective manner.
9 Complete your committee business and complete the
10 preparations of your convention committee
11 reports.

12 Shipmate John R. Davis, Branch 181, is
13 the director legislative service committee
14 chairman and he is assisted by Shipmate Theo
15 Lawson, Branch 181.

16 Meeting rooms are listed in your
17 convention programs. Convention committee
18 chairmen are to pick up their committee forms and
19 rosters from the chairman of the DLP at the time
20 when the convention committee reports are ready
21 to be delivered. Through the delegates, the

1 chairman will report to the DLP committee
2 chairman, who will conduct and schedule the
3 reports which the national president in this
4 matter and order follow the convention business,
5 will be scheduled. Convention committee reports
6 will be called with the second business session
7 tomorrow afternoon at 1300.

8 Resolutions that have been ratified to
9 the national convention committee are noted on
10 the committee forms being provided to the
11 convention committee chairmen. Appointed
12 convention committees, the list is in your
13 delegate kit and will be submitted for records.

14 They changed things on us and it's, this
15 is called a floater. We will now hear from the
16 FRA legislative teams issues, updates and
17 presentations. Oops -- where? She ain't at the
18 mic yet.

19 S/M YOUNG: I didn't want to interrupt
20 you.

21 NP ROBBINS: I'm sorry.

1 S/M YOUNG: There is one committee that
2 is not on the list that is meeting tomorrow. It
3 is the centennial committee, so any members that
4 are here, we are meeting at 0600, so we don't
5 take you away from the other committees. We are
6 meeting in Rose E, I'm buying you breakfast.

7 NP ROBBINS: Everybody will be there.

8 S/M YOUNG: Thank you.

9 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate Young.
10 Shipmate John, do you have any legislative
11 updates you want to give us at this time? Well,
12 that's the only way we're going to hear you.

13 NVP HANDZUK: Well, we're all in
14 suspense about the close down, the shutdown of
15 government, so we've been in contact with some
16 people on Capitol Hill so we'll let you know what
17 we now know. The Senate is going to try to run
18 a, like a continuing resolution, which is
19 basically like a resolution that says government
20 will stay open at the same level that it is right
21 now in spending.

1 That's what it's supposed to do.
2 There's other items in there such as Ukraine
3 funding and some other things. Nobody as of an
4 hour or so ago when we were talking on the phone,
5 nobody knew what the details were on that, on
6 what was in that resolution, no one even knows if
7 it's going to pass the Senate and if it passes
8 the Senate, they don't know if it will pass the
9 House.

10 Remember, the House tried to pass a
11 continuing resolution of four weeks, which kept
12 the government open, it cut discretionary
13 spending by eight percent. It's the first time
14 discretionary spending has been cut that much,
15 but it failed to pass by two votes. So they're
16 in a bit of a quandary there because they don't
17 think they have a consensus on anything yet.

18 There's somebody putting a pill in both
19 the chambers to make sure that the active duty
20 military and the Coast Guard continue to get
21 paid. If they don't pass that bill, they will be

1 required to continue to work but won't get paid
2 until the budget gets passed. So every time
3 we've had a government shutdown, I believe
4 they've always been able to pass that kind of
5 bill when they would pay the military.

6 So that's where we're at right now, so
7 really nobody knows what's going to happen.
8 They've got until Saturday to get it passed, so
9 let's see.

10 Your Tricare will continue to be
11 serviced, your Social Security and Medicare will
12 also continue. That's mandatory funding which
13 means it's not appropriated by the government, or
14 by the Congress, so it's automatic, it will
15 continue to get paid to you. And what else?

16 Oh, the mail will continue to be
17 delivered.

18 So, I don't mean to make light of it, so
19 it's a mess. They're supposed to pass 12
20 appropriate bills every year and they haven't
21 passed any, so then they come down to well, let's

1 all put it in one big bill, they call it an
2 omnibus bill, and they often are able to pass
3 that and there's usually a lot of surprise there,
4 but they haven't been able to do that either.

5 So that's where we're at, and you know,
6 we're going to be supporting or watching the bill
7 that is HR 5641 in the House, just got introduced
8 this afternoon, and that pays the military and
9 health care. The Senate has a companion bill, I
10 don't know the number, but the thing that
11 concerns me about the Senate bill, it only has
12 Republican cosponsors, so no Democrats have
13 signed on to it yet so we need it to be
14 bipartisan to pass. The House bill has
15 Republicans and Democrats sponsoring the bill so
16 that might go, so that's it.

17 I will be around if you want me to
18 answer any more questions. I hope to get some
19 new information in a little bit. We're having
20 our meeting, the legislative services meeting
21 tomorrow at 0730 in Redwood, I think it's

1 Redwood 6, check your schedule on that.

2 S/M HANZEL: Shipmate National

3 President, Shipmate Hanzel, delegate, 230. This

4 is a question for John. If the government shuts

5 down and nobody gets paid, does that mean

6 Congress doesn't get paid?

7 NVP HANDZUK: Congress does get paid.

8 S/M HANZEL: Who says?

9 NVP HANDZUK: Congress does. It's in

10 the Constitution allegedly, there's some

11 provision in the Constitution, and the President

12 gets paid, and who else gets paid? As I said,

13 the post office people get paid, that's a

14 separate fund. And Social Security, Medicare,

15 Tricare, your retirement checks, the VA. There's

16 some argument about VA, but VA is on a three-year

17 budget so it will be taken care of.

18 So that's where we're at right now and

19 you know, I even was talking to people on the

20 Hill that are pretty upset or exacerbated because

21 you know, it's just like they're spinning their

1 wheels, it happens every year. So I tried to put
2 things in the newsletter about what's going to
3 happen, but you know, I don't know what's going
4 to happen right now. But I think, my gut is they
5 will pass something to keep the government open
6 for a week or two weeks or something until they
7 get it figured out. That's just my gut feeling
8 but I could be wrong.

9 Yeah, so what happened with -- somebody
10 asked about the promotions being held up.
11 They're still being held up, okay? What happens
12 is when like, sometimes they promote just like 50
13 or 60 of them in a month, where they send it to
14 the floor and say hey, let's all support this.
15 One Senator is holding that all up, but he
16 allowed, what was it, the Chairman of the Joint
17 Chiefs of Staff and somebody else.

18 SPEAKER: Marine Corps Commandant.

19 NVP HANDZUK: No, I think it was the
20 Chief of Staff of the Army. So those guys have
21 been -- no, that's the chairman of the Joint

1 Chiefs of Staff. It was an Air Force general.
2 So to get those through, but they had to vote on
3 them individually. Some of these are pretty
4 small, I don't want to say unimportant, but
5 there's quite a few of these appointments they go
6 through all the time and they usually do them in
7 batches. And what he's saying now is we'll do
8 them one at a time, and that eats up a lot of
9 time, so they're upset about that too.

10 So yes -- it's not good. We had it
11 introduced, I put it on the action center and we
12 didn't get a huge response from our members, I
13 could look it up, but I think like 150 emails
14 went to Congress. That's not going to move it.
15 So, I think we've got like three or four
16 cosponsors, but if you want to get it passed
17 you're going to need something like 290, so it's
18 just floundering.

19 And somebody very important I want to
20 say to Chris Slawinski. This was his thing, he
21 really wanted to have a coin bill passed, and

1 Chris and I also spoke frankly to one another and
2 I told him I don't know, you know, how hard, and
3 it's really hard to pass a coin bill, let's put
4 it that way. And he really wanted to do this so
5 we put this in for him.

6 Sorry, but if you look at the action
7 center, I'm sorry, I cannot remember the number.
8 I remember last year's number for some reason.
9 We've got the same sponsor we had a year ago, but
10 it's just not taking off. And only two of them
11 get allowed a year and the 2024, they gave me the
12 list, do you remember what it was?

13 SPEAKER: Medical.

14 NVP HANDZUK: Oh yeah. People who
15 worked, medical people that worked during the
16 pandemic, that's a real hot one, that's got a
17 whole bunch of cosponsors.

18 And who started the Red Cross, Clara
19 Barton, it's her hundredth birthday or something
20 and people are really big on that, so it's very
21 tough to pass it. Yes, thank you. HR 2929 is

1 the coin bill, so -- and also we would actually,
2 it's a money maker, supposed to be a money maker
3 for the association.

4 So if there's any questions or whatever,
5 we're going to meet 0730 tomorrow in the
6 Redwood 6, so I'll see you all there.

7 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate John.

8 The first business session of the 95th
9 National Convention will now be recessed. The
10 second business session will commence promptly at
11 1300 Wednesday afternoon in this room.

12 Shipmate National Chaplain, would you
13 please close the Bible?

14 NCHAP BAILEY: Shipmate National
15 President, the Bible is closed.

16 NP ROBBINS: Thank you, Shipmate
17 Chaplain.

18 Turn and salute the colors. Hand
19 salute. Two.

20 We are now in recess until 1300
21 Wednesday afternoon.

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(Whereupon, the first business session
adjourned.)

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